



STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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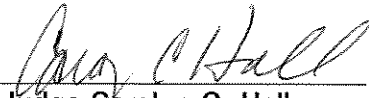
For Immediate Release

STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION CATASTROPHIC DESIGNATION PILOT PROJECT

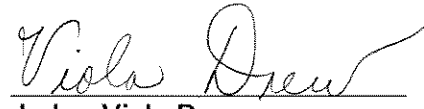
The State Board of Workers' Compensation is instituting a Pilot Project concerning a medical release form.

In order to study the effectiveness of the release and to gather data, the Board deems it necessary to implement the usage of this release on a temporary basis for usage in claims designated "catastrophic" under O.C.G.A. §34-9-200.1(g).

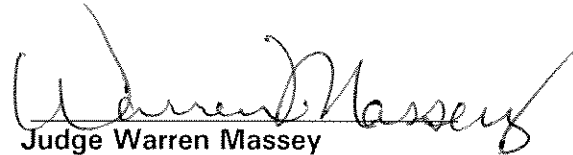
This change in procedure is effective as of April 1, 2005, and shall remain in effect until further order from the Board. This 29th day of March, 2005.



Judge Carolyn C. Hall
Chair



Judge Viola Drew
Director



Judge Warren Massey
Director

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO CATASTROPHIC REHABILITATION SUPPLIER

Re: Patient Name: _____ **SS#** _____

Date of Injury: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

The purpose of this document, or a photocopy of same, is to allow the above-stated entity, facility or medical practitioner to release information to _____, Board registered catastrophic rehabilitation supplier, in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws. Further, this document also allows the above stated rehabilitation supplier to gather and use information necessary to carry out his/her obligations pursuant to O.C.G.A. §34-9-200.1 and Board Rule 200.1.

A. Medical Release: This release entitles the rehabilitation supplier to obtain all medical records, necessary to grant relief, effect a cure, or restore the employee to suitable employment under O.C.G.A. §34-9-200(a), from any medical practitioner who has examined, treated, or tested the employee or consulted about the employee's physical or mental health or vocational status. The records obtainable include those for examination, treatment, testing or consultation concerning the employee as it relates to the injury date listed above, including but not limited to those of psychologists and psychiatrists.

B. Use of Information: This form allows the above named rehabilitation supplier to use any and all health and vocational information obtained necessary to carry out the duties of the rehabilitation supplier as set forth in O.C.G.A. §34-9-200.1 or Board Rule 200.1. Copies of any records or documents provided to the employer/insurer shall be provided simultaneously to the employee or the employee's counsel when represented.

The patient completely releases the entity, facility, or medical practitioner from any and all liability which may result or could result from the release of such information. This release is in compliance with Federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). 45 CFR 164.512(1) which reads as follows: *The covered entity may disclose protected health information as*

authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs, established by law, that provide benefits for work-related illnesses or injury without regard to fault. Anyone who receives information under this document receives the same under all protection of Federal and State law inuring to the patient.

C. Claimant's Right to Private Examination: The employee has the right to a private physical examination and/or consultation with the medical provider. The employee agrees that the rehabilitation supplier may meet with the physician and employee following a private physical examination and/or consultation.

This release and consent shall expire at the close of rehabilitation, upon the dismissal of the rehabilitation supplier, and/or upon written notice of revocation by the employee, whichever is earlier.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Witness : _____ **Date:** _____

A photostatic copy of this authorization will be considered as effective and valid as the original.